

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings.

1. (Currently amended) A method for joining components of thermostatic systems and thermal relays for low-voltage circuit breakers, said components being constituted by at least one bimetallic element constituted by a lamina with a first face and a second face and at least one connection element comprising a connecting braid that has a substantially flat end part with a third face and a fourth face, wherein the method comprises:
 - overlapping and coupling the end part of the first face of said bimetallic element with respect to the third face of the end part of said connection element; and
 - subjecting the end part of the second face of said bimetallic element to the welding action of laser means to provide a weld between said bimetallic element and said at least one connection element, wherein:
 - said laser means scan the second face along a predefined path that follows a curved profile; and
 - said curved profile is designed entirely within said second face and has no intersecting portions.
- 2-4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously presented) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 1, wherein said laser means are constituted by a solid-state laser.
6. (Previously presented) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 1, wherein the at least one connection element comprises a circuit breaker protection relay connection.
7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) Components of low-voltage circuit breakers obtained with a method according to claim 1.
9. (Previously presented) A low-voltage circuit breaker, comprising one or more components according to claim 8.
- 10-15. (Canceled)
16. (Previously presented) The method for joining components of low-voltage circuit breakers according to claim 5, wherein the at least one connection element comprises a circuit breaker protection relay connection.
- 17-20. (Canceled)